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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

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OFFICE OF  
PREVENTION, PESTICIDES AND  
TOXIC SUBSTANCES

James A. Barter, Ph.D.  
Director, Environmental Health Sciences & Toxicology  
Environment, Health & Safety  
PPG Industries, Inc.  
One PPG Place  
Pittsburgh, PA 15272

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Dear Dr. Barter:

Thank you for your letter dated December 12, 2002, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), regarding the High Production Volume (HPV) Challenge Program. I apologize for the lengthy delay in responding to your request.

Your letter requests that z-Aspartic Acid (CAS No. 1152-61-0) be designated as "no longer HPV" based on its sole use overseas as a chemical intermediate in the production of a food additive, specifically, the artificial sweetener Aspartame. EPA, after reviewing this chemical, has determined that z-Aspartic Acid (CAS No. 1152-61-0), is not an HPV candidate and has modified the HPV Program Chemical List with a code of "1" to reflect that status.

We will post your letter, accompanied by our reply, on the ChemRTK website as soon as possible. Should you have any questions pertaining to this response, please contact Diane Sheridan at (202) 564-8176. If you have general questions concerning the HPV Challenge Program, please submit them through the ChemRTK website comment button or through the TSCA Assistance Information Service (TSCA Hotline) at (202) 554-1404. The TSCA Hotline can also be reached via e-mail at [tsc-hotline@epa.gov](mailto:tsc-hotline@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

Wardner G. Penberthy  
Acting Director  
Chemical Control Division

cc: AR201